

In our contributed column will be found a strong and sensible article on the much-discussed labor question, which is well worth perusal. It is written by a working man, who evidently realizes that force can effect no genuine reform, and that all sumptuary legislation is a hindrance to progress. Here is a laborer who acknowledges that work is not a curse, but rather a blessing. A fair chance to exercise one's powers is what is required to make things move more smoothly.

Various rumors as to the removal of the residence of Pope Leo XIII from Rome were set afloat a short ago, but it is improbable that any result will follow. The disagreeable Pantheon incident of a few weeks ago, which gave rise to these murmurings, was an unfortunate circumstance. A number of devout pilgrims were attacked by a mob, upon which it was alleged that the Government instigated the outrage, an opinion to which the strained relations between the temporal and spiritual powers gave considerable color. It would, however, be a rather difficult undertaking to find a more suitable residence than Rome for the Pope, for there is really no spot in Europe where strenuous opposition would not be offered to Papal occupation. It is difficult to imagine when looking at the picture of the Pope that appeared in the *Dominion Illustrated* of October 17th—that the kindly, benevolent-looking old gentleman, with the sweet patient expression in his eyes, has so many enemies; but in these days politics and religion are pulling apart, and men are determined not to allow their spiritual guides to have much to do with temporal affairs.

It is a growing conviction, we think, that the remedy for ill-assorted marriages must begin at the altar and not in the divorce court. Hon. Carroll D. Wright, the eminent statistician, who has been making a study of the divorce laws of the United States, recently read a paper before the U. S. Unitarian Conference at Saratoga, in which he gave some interesting figures regarding divorces. From 1867 to 1887—twenty years—there were 828,716 decrees of divorce granted in the United States, of this number 216,176 were granted on the application of the wife. In the time covered the population of the country had increased 60 per cent., but the divorces had increased 157 per cent. Mr. Wright suggested more careful laws for the regulation of marriages, thus implying, as we state above, that reform should begin at the beginning. He does not, however, think that divorce is a menace to the purity and sacredness of the family, but he does believe that it is a menace to the infernal brutality of whatever name, be it crude or refined, which at times makes a hell of the holiest of human relations. He continues in the following forcible language, in which there is food for thought:—"I believe that the divorce movement finds its impetus outside of our laws, outside of our institutions, outside of our theology; that it finds its impetus in the rebellion of human hearts against that slavery which binds in the cruellest bonds of the cruellest prostitution human beings who have by their foolishness, by their want of wisdom or by the intervention of friends, missed the divine purpose as well as the civil purpose of marriage. I believe the result will be an enhanced purity, a sublimer sacredness, a more beautiful embodiment of Lamartine's trinity—the trinity of the father, the mother and the child—which of itself completes and continues the race; and if we would preserve this beautiful trinity in all its sacredness, society must take the disgusting medicine labelled 'divorce.'"

An ecclesiastical dignitary in England recently said that if girls would become good plain cooks they would improve the world quite as much as by becoming senior wranglers. This is true, but we should remember that man does not live by bread alone, and that so long as the women of the world do their share of this sort of work all that they can do besides in the way of becoming senior wranglers is just so much gain. God forbid that any hindrance should be offered to women in their noble efforts to acquire the highest culture of the age; there is absolutely no fear that they will be lifted out of their sphere, and every man will readily acknowledge that a thoroughly educated woman is likely to make a more conscientious wife and mother than one whose sole thought is to see that her husband and children are well fed and wear suitable clothing. The woman who is able to be a companion and friend to her husband and train her children's minds in the right direction is a treasure not to be lightly spoken of. There is one thing about this matter that is often overlooked by those who write on the subject, and that is the difference in the time it takes to acquire the art of housekeeping and the time it takes to attain the dignity of senior wrangler. The latter is not often attained, neither is it sought for by all the young women who set out with the determination to obtain a first-class education, but it requires the work of years to win distinction in any branch of learning, especially as women compete side by side with their brothers. Housekeeping, on the other hand, may be readily learned by any woman of ordinary common sense in from six months to a year; even if she never had a broom or a carpet sweeper in her hand before, or had never tried to cook a dinner in her life. Since this is true, there is no reason why a woman should not follow out her desires as to the education of her mind, and when that is done to her satisfaction she can take a course of special study in the kitchen and other departments of the house that will fit her to hold her own with the old-fashioned housewife. Again, there is no necessity for all women to be cooks and housekeepers, since the sexes are so unequally proportioned that women far outnumber men. Old fogies can croak, but women are now on a smoother track than they have travelled before, and although it is still up grade, they have no intention of leaving it yet awhile.

Indian summer is over for this year, and likewise the sporting season. Legs are to have a rest, for football is dead, and brains will be given a chance to assert themselves once more.

Last month there appeared in *The Ladies' Home Journal* some remarks anent writing for the dollar, which we wish could be read by all our authors. Too much literary work is being done in a hasty and perfunctory manner, with the object not so much of doing the country service by adding to its stock of sound reliable books, but chiefly for the pecuniary gain, and also for whatever glory may accrue. So far as glory is concerned, it appears that the more superficial writers are getting almost as much of it as those who devote themselves ardently to the tasks they undertake. The book-reviewing of many papers is a very poor sort of criticism—if it can be called criticism at all. In many cases the reviewers are overworked and have not the time at their disposal that is requisite for thorough investigation of facts and statements, and in consequence they pass over the works of fairly well-known authors with a complimentary paragraph or two, and think that the author and the public will be pleased with it. None but very thin-skinned authors will resent having their errors corrected, and it is certainly an imposition upon the reading public to laud and praise indiscriminately books that are not by any means worthy of it. When this is done there remains no bounty upon the better work, which, like virtue, is its own reward. The standard for fiction is different from that of historical, biographical, scientific and other works in which imagination plays no part. In the former the merit depends upon the plot, the characters, the style, wit, originality and general interest excited, as well as upon pleasing the taste, and if the writer commits no anachronism or error of that sort, and the story is readable and interesting, the critic may fairly praise it. With the other class of books, however, absolute correctness is the great desideratum, and if mistakes are made they should be pointed out, so that those who purchase the books may be able to correct them in the margin, and by this means make them of greater value. The tendency at present is to undertake a great deal of work and get it into print as soon as possible. Time is required for the verification of statements, but to judge by much of the literature of the day, we should say that writers do not look very closely into the matters they treat of. Reviewers are a good deal to blame for this, as under the present style of puffing they are scarcely to be feared by the too hasty writers. The papers in the United States are great sinners in this way, and often show by their generous bestowal of "taffy" that they know as little about what they praise as they do about the geography of Canada. Some of our Canadian papers are much inclined to follow this lead, and it does incalculable harm where our own writers are concerned. For our part, we intend looking very sharply into all books written by Canadians, or treating of Canadian subjects, that may find their way to our table, and shall endeavor to bestow our praises where they are most deserved, not making them of no value by giving to all alike irrespective of merit. To see our national literature advance by genuine steps that shall know no backsliding is one of our earnest desires, to which we shall bend our energies.

The collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society for the years 1889-91 have just been published in a neat and convenient form. It is three years since volume VI of the papers read before the Society was published, and in view of the length of time that has elapsed, volume VII is by no means so bulky as we would have supposed. The fact is that history is not made with the same rapidity that it is written, and important topics for papers are not easy to find. The Historical Society has done good work since its institution in 1878, not only by putting much valuable information in shape for preservation in the papers contributed, but also by gathering together for its library all books, pamphlets, letters, etc., bearing on the history of the Province. The list of lectures for this season is complete, and the membership is larger than ever. One notable feature of the recent meeting of the Society was the proposing of a lady's name for membership—that of Mrs. Rogers, nee Miss Grace Deau McLeod. This is, we believe, an innovation, of which we decidedly approve. There are no ladies' names on the membership list, and there are many good reasons for making a change in this respect. As regards the meetings of the Society, they are so quietly conducted that very few people beyond those immediately concerned think much about them. There is usually about the same attendance of interested auditors, among which there is a fair sprinkling of ladies. The contents of the present volume of collections include "Vinland," by Hon. L. G. Power; "Notes on 'A General Return of the Several Townships in the Province of Nova Scotia for the first day of January, 1767,'" by D. Allison, Esq., L. L. D.; "The Early History of the Parish of St. George, Halifax," paper II, by Rev. Canon Partridge, D. D., Rector of St. George's; "Letters and other papers relating to the Early History of the Church of England in Nova Scotia," copied by permission from originals in the possession of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, London, G. B.; and the "Story of the Deportation of Negroes from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone," read by ex-Governor Archibald. There is a list of papers read since the publication of volume V of the collections, and memorial notices of the Hon. John W. Ritchie, Thomas Beamish Akins, D. C. L., and Albert Peters, all prominent members of the Historical Society, and faithful workers in it, whose deaths have caused heartfelt regret. The Society has still much useful work before it in rescuing from oblivion many incidents coming within its own scope, and there will doubtless be willing workers found year after year to put the results of research in form for preservation.

K. D. C. Restores the Stomach to Healthy Action.

K. D. C. Acts Like Magic on the Stomach.

K. D. C. The Greatest Cure of the Age.

K. D. C. The Dyspeptic's Hope.